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JAN 22 2006

22 Jan 2006

Re: Application No. 10/031,776 – reply to non-final rejection

Dear Alex P. Rada,

This is a reply to the action which was mailed to me on 12/29/2005.
I believe I have answered below all the rejections in this action, and therefore that the application should be allowed.

(a) Double patenting

(a.1) I am attaching two terminal disclaimers with respect to applications 10/031890 and 10/031942, and a payment for both in a single form pto-2038. I should add that I do this despite the fact that I don't accept the claim that these applications are not patentably distinguishable. The Claims of the different applications do not overlap.

(b) Claim rejections – 35 USC 112

(b.1) I have taken the opportunity to modify Claim 1 quite extensively, though without changing the main innovative parts. The modified Claims page is attached. The modifications are:

- 1) Removing the hardware implementation details, including the concept of "games manager". This is not part of the inventive part of the current application.
- 2) Changing everything to be described in terms of behaviour of the board, without any reference to an external agency.
- 3) Introducing the concept of "current player's colour" before the main description., and referring to it consistently. The "current player's colour" corresponds to the "colour of the player" in the second paragraph of page 2 of the description. It is also referred to as "player's colour" in the first paragraph of page 4, and in the previous version of Claim 1. In paragraph 2 on page 7 it is referred to as "current_player".
- 4) Introduce "fixed number". This is described in the second paragraph on page 2. Also